

GAU 2814
PATENT

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Case Docket No. ASMMC.005AUS
Date: August 12, 2002
Page 1



In re application of : Raaijmakers et al.
App. No. : 09/887,199
Filed : June 21, 2001
For : TRENCH ISOLATION FOR
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT
Examiner : Mai
Art Unit : 2814

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Restriction Requirement and Election of Species in the above-identified application.

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Applicant : Raaijmakers et al.

Appl. No. : 09/887,199

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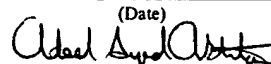
Examiner : Mai

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND
ELECTION OF SPECIES

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Response to Restriction Requirement

In an action mailed July 15, 2002, the Examiner required restriction of prosecution to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I Claims 1-42, drawn to methods of making semiconductor devices; and

Group II Claims 43-58, drawn to semiconductor devices.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, to proceed with examination on the merits of Group I (Claims 1-42), drawn to methods of manufacture.

Election of Species

The Examiner has also required election of a single disclosed species, under 35 U.S.C. §121, among the following sub-species of the method claims:

Group Ia Claims 2-5, directed to filling the trench with an oxide material;

Group Ib Claims 6-19, directed to filling the trench with two oxide materials separately;

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- Group Ic Claims 20-27, directed to filling the trench with a mixture of oxide materials;
- Group Id Claims 28-33, directed to filling the trench with two oxide materials, wherein each oxide material is formed by one monolayer at a time; and
- Group Ie Claims 34-42, directed to filling the trench with two oxide materials formed alternatively.

In response, Applicants elect Group Ib (Claims 6-19). However, Applicants note the Examiner's finding that Claim 1 is generic to all of these species, such that the remaining method claims remain subject to examination, presuming a generic claim is allowable.

Furthermore, Applicants traverse the secondary restriction to the extent that the finding does not include any further generic claims. For example, independent Claim 20 is generic to many of the claims in the other groups (e.g., Claim 20 is generic to all of Claims 6-19). Accordingly, to the extent that any allowable claim is generic to claims that have been grouped in nonelected groups, Applicants respectfully request reinstatement of such claims.

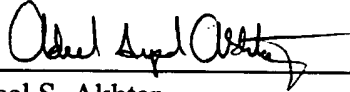
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for examination on the merits, and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: August 13, 2002

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